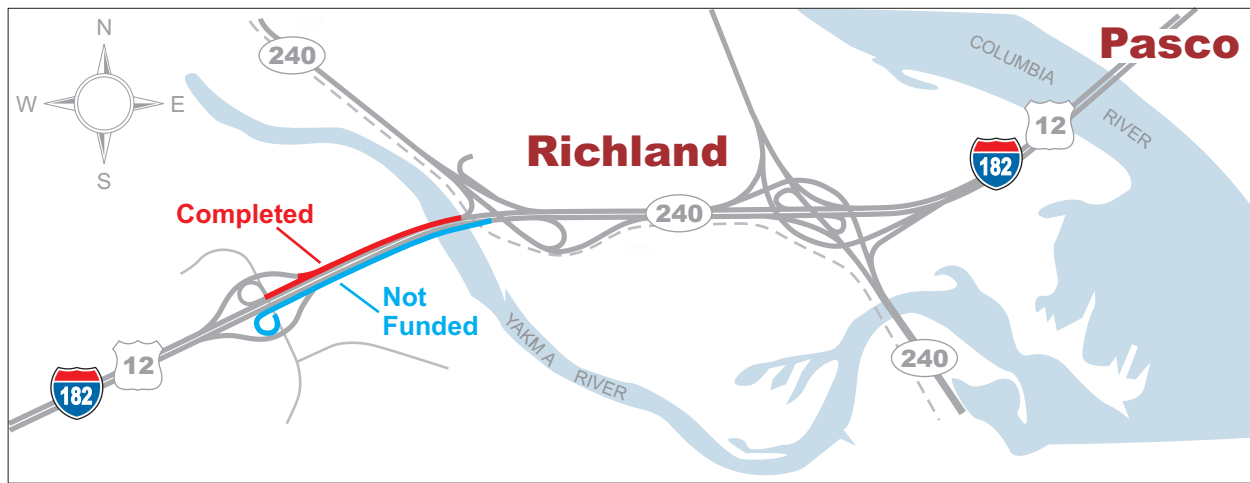




I-182/Queensgate to Thayer Improvements



Overview

The proposed improvements on I-182 from Queensgate to Thayer consist of three elements: westbound loop off-ramp at Queensgate (completed by the City of Richland and its partners in 2001); eastbound loop on-ramp; and auxiliary lanes for I-182 from Queensgate to Thayer/SR 240.

Why is WSDOT adding lanes to I-182 and improving the interchange?

Currently I-182 between the Queensgate Interchange and Thayer/SR 240 Interchange is operating at or near capacity. Congestion and collisions are increasing at the Queensgate interchange.

I-182, part of the National Highway System, is a critical travel route for both commuter traffic and commercial trucks carrying defense waste in the Tri-Cities area. I-182 provides access to and from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation and the new Vitrification Plant under construction, in addition to Richland business, industry, and residences. Commercial and residential traffic at this interchange has grown rapidly in the past ten years. The interchange provides the primary access to new housing developments along Keene Road, and the expanding business district on W. Gage Road.

End Result

Once all phases are constructed, this project will provide an auxiliary lane in each direction on I-182 from the Queensgate Interchange to Thayer/SR 240, and an eastbound loop on-ramp for the Queensgate Interchange. The auxiliary lanes will relieve congestion and increase safety on the interstate. The loop ramps will improve the operation of the interchange by eliminating conflicting turning movements. Congestion at the interchange will decrease, and intersection-related collisions will be reduced.

Current Funding

A federal earmark secured by the City of Richland funded design and construction of the westbound auxiliary lane. The total project cost was \$2.3 million.

The remaining phase - the eastbound loop on-ramp and eastbound auxiliary lane - is currently unfunded, and remains in the preliminary stages. The cost to complete this phase is estimated to be \$4.6 million.

Timeline

WSDOT and the City of Richland recently completed construction of the westbound auxiliary lane on I-182. The new lane was open to traffic in November 2005.

For More Information

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